## Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL ROME 5460

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR. IT. US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CRAXI VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: ROME 5394

1. FOLLOWING THE SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS ON MARCH 29-APRIL 2, I PLAN TO MEET PARTY SECRETARY BETTINO CRAXI TO GAIN HIS IMPRESSIONS OF WHERE HE AND HIS PARTY STAND FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS.IT APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT CRAXI WILL EMERGE FROM THE CONGRESS WITH HIS OWN POSITION STRENGTHENED AND THE CRAXI-SIGNORILE FACTIONS IN EFFECTIVE COMMAND OF THE PARTY AND ITS FUTURE POLITICAL COURSE.

2. I THINK THE MONTH OR SO FOLLOWING THE CONGRESS WOULD MARK AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR CRAXI TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF MY MEETING WITH HIM TO PROPOSE SUCH A VISIT. BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO BE CERTAIN THAT IF HE WERE TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SEE HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT, IN PARTICULAR, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY AFFARIS, BRZEZINSKI, AND SECRETARY VANCE. I ALSO WANT TO PROPOSE TO CRAXI THAT HE LATER SEND A GROUP OF YOUNGER, RISING SOCIALIST LEADERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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THE UNITED STATES ON THE IVP PROGRAM.

3. IN THE PAST CRAXI HAS DECLINED TO VISIT WASHINGTON UNLESS HE WAS ASSURED OF SEEING THE PRESIDENT. I WOULD POINT OUT TO CRAXI THAT THOUGH HE COULD NOT CALL ON THE PRESIDENT, A MEETING WITH OFFICIALS OF THE NEXT LEVEL WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE KEY ROLE WHICH THE SOCIALIST PARTY COULD CONCEIVABLY PLAY IN THE PRESENT DIFFICULT PERIOD IN ITALIAN POLITICS, I BELIEVE THAT CRAXI'S MEETING THE ABOVE OFFICIALS WOULD BE GREATLY IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT HE SHOULD BE RECEIVED AT A HIGH LEVEL. I WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CRAXI'S SEEING THE VICE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND DR. BRZEZINSKI. GARDNER

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